

Application Number 09/266,674
Amendment dated April 21, 2004
Responsive to Office Action mailed October 28, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 2 with the following amended paragraph.

When water contacts a hydrophilic material or a material not sufficiently ~~hydrophilic~~, hydrophobic, a condition called "wetting" results. This means that air is prevented from flowing through the material. Components of CSF in addition to water reduce the surface tension of the fluid. This compounds the "wetting" effect and makes the vent 26 more likely to be plugged by contact with the CSF than it would be with contact with water alone. This "wetting" problem is even more compounded when the CSF that contacts the vent has blood in it. The blood acts as a surfactant which increases the plugging of the material of the vent. As a result, even a small amount of blood in the CSF can cause the vent to plug rapidly if it contacts the hydrophilic vent material.